

Reasons for Lions to Vision Screen Grade Levels preK/K – 4th Grade

1. The 2019 legislation gives schools the authority to add more grades to the minimum grades mandated for vision screening.
2. The minimum vision screening requirement under the mandate does not negate the long time recommended practice of vision screening lower grades every year. It is a bare minimum. The ADHS 2010 vision screening Guidelines recommend vision screening every year through 4th grade, then every other year.
3. In this age group, children's eyes change every year and need to be tested every year.
4. Charts alone cannot detect eye conditions that photoscreeners can. We detect:
Astigmatism - irregularly shaped corneas or lenses; Myopia – nearsightedness;
Hyperopia – farsightedness; Strabismus - misalignment of the eyes
Anisometropia - unequal refractive power; Anisocoria - pupil size anomalies
Amblyopia risk factors - reduced vision in one eye. Eliminating Amblyopia is a core Lions objective.
5. Eliminating vision impairment is a necessary component in a comprehensive strategy for improving student literacy. Children who do not have strong reading skills by the end of 3rd grade, do poorly for years afterward.
6. Vision screening with the Lions program is time efficient, minimizing the time lost in the classroom.
7. This Lions program has the resources to pay for an eye exam and glasses for students if their parents can't afford to pay.
8. A Baltimore study found that getting eyeglasses to students paid significant dividends in student performance and these dividends had a biggest impact on students the lowest quartile.